



Activity 7: I Spy

Students often enjoy hunting for specific objects in pictures and displays. In this activity, students are asked to read a simple rhyme that encourages them to explore the museum to find various objects. While completing the search, students discover the many unusual tools used by the Ancestral Puebloan people, and become familiar with the skills needed to survive in a somewhat difficult environment. They also learn about the developmental changes that took place while the Ancestral Puebloan people lived in Mesa Verde.

As you read the rhyme below, search for the many objects in the museum exhibit rooms.



Room One

Diorama 1

Find a man throwing a rock
(but you don't have to tattle)
There are four men with spears
and three atlatl.

Diorama 2

Find more than ten baskets with only white and black
Five baskets that have some red
Two deer hides, three dogs, meat on a rack
And also a baby "in bed."

Diorama 3

Find two boys learning bows, one child with a dog,
A turkey who wants a child's treat;
A child in a tree, two fires that are hot
and two men bringing home fresh meat.

Diorama 4

There's a man with a foot that's stuck through the roof,
A woman who finds it so funny;
A lady climbing up with a jar on her head
(but I'm sure it's not full of honey).

Diorama 5

Find four old men who sit in the sun,
An old man who teaches three boys,
A man in a kiva with log too short
And a boy who's laughing--what noise!



Room Two

Origin of American Indians

Find a jawbone from a giant sloth,
A camel that's a little strange
Two Yuma points, six Folsom points
A bison that's home on the range.

Archaic Period

They all used tools: chopper and scraper,
and chert point used as a dart.
And they all ate food: rice grass, berries and nuts
(But none of it baked in a tart).

Basketmaker

See a deer hoof that rattles? Crutches for a child?
Scraper blade from mountain sheep horn?
The items found here are all very old
Used long before we were born.

Basket - Weaving

Find woven human hair and tan yucca fiber,
Find spun wild flax as a net
Find a large braided snare and for our bed
A yucca, feather & fur blanket.

Modified Basketmaker

Look very hard and you will find
13 heads for an arrow;
A string of light shells, sandals for feet
And woven dog hair belts that are narrow.

Beginning of Pottery

Find six pottery forms based on a gourd
These ancestors were very clever!
Could you build two jars with two handles on sides?
I know I couldn't ever!

People of Corn

Corn was quite different and what have we here?
A 20-rowed, 4-rowed and (2) pod corn ears;
Four rings made from husks, some cobs that are burned
So much about old corn we have learned!



Room Three

Step House Cave

There's a fat bone awl, a light gray spoon
And a pipe with an animal head;
A burned pit house is a pitiful sight
So let's hurry on ahead.

Pueblo Architecture

One kind of "house" uses four upright poles;
Adobe and sticks were used, too.
Later came slabs right on the ground
Then stones with mortar all through.

Developmental Pueblo Pottery

I spy a bird-shaped vessel, gray ladles (2)
And a box to hold my trinkets.
That tri-lobed pitcher is quite unique
Who do you suppose would think it?

Cotton

One old fragment of red, brown and white
Was woven on a loom.
Find these words: sennit, batten and heddle
Before you leave this room.



Room Four

Rock Art

What mineral makes red, and which makes yellow?
When brushed with a yucca plant fiber?
The pictograph art will also reveal
The damage to art by a fire.

Basketry and Matting

A rectangular coil basket--
A most unusual find;
And pottery from a basket mold;
Definitely one of a kind!

Corrugated Pottery

A coil like a lollipop
Helped make the thumb print pot.
A jar rest kept the pots upright
And smoke stains show pots got hot.

Southwest Pottery Traditions

Find one pot without black decor;
Find one light orange pot, too;
And before you go another step
Find one shaped like a shoe.

Black on White

Here we have a ladle
And five human figures on sherds.
I also spy a double mug
But none shaped like a bird.

Pottery Shapes and Uses

Little dishes made for play,
A painting of a bird;
Jar lids came in handy
And here's that shape of a bird.

Tools and Cordage

Find the smallest awl of all
And can you find a skinner?
If you find an ax with handle
You'll be a real winner.



Room Four (Continued)

Cultivating Foods-Food Preparation

Can you spot the chewed bread rolls
And recipe to make it?
I spy squash and corn and beans
But can't see how to bake it.

Wild Plant and Animal Food

Where's the smallest animal used for food?
Can you find a snare?
Food to fill the tummy:
Pinion and prickly pear!

House Construction

Find 43 white dots on black
A hand print and a thumb print.
Find a corncob and some roof mud
Without a single hint.

Jewelry

Two thousand nine hundred sixty-nine pieces
All found in a pottery jar;
A stone ring, bird bones and red cross
But nothing shaped like a star.



Room Five

Dendrochronology

Find a section 340 years old
A core and V cut, too;
A beam cut in Twelve-Oh-Six
And a piece of charcoal, too.

Debt to American Indians

Find chili peppers (big and red)
And cotton in a ball;
Two kinds of potato
And popcorn--best of all!

Common Birds of Mesa Verde

Find a bird with a bald red head;
And the bird that is the smallest.
I see a turkey is the largest,
But is a crow or raven tallest?

Common Trees of the Mesa Verde

Find the biggest cone of all
And find the roughest bark.
Find the bluest berries
And then the smoothest bark.

Thanks!

Thanks for coming here today;
Thanks for playing "I Spy."
Hope you had a lovely time
Till we meet again--"good-bye!"